

April 25, 1975

PRESIDENT: Senator Barnett.

SENATOR BARNETT: I'd like to have Senator Lewis answer a question. Senator Lewis you're more familiar with this than I am. I'm going to ask you two or three sort of simple questions. Maybe you can make them general. What is a school teacher . . . can you give me some kind of average of what they retire at right now, some idea?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: The largest check issues as I recall as of about 6 or 8 months ago was \$158 per month.

SENATOR BARNETT: Do you know what some of the smaller ones are?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Yeah, I think the smallest ones go down to \$33 - \$44 per month.

SENATOR BARNETT: This is after 25 or 30 years of service in the teaching profession?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: That's correct. That's correct.

SENATOR BARNETT: What would this bill do for those people that are in the areas? Take the two extremes and the high, could you give me some ballpark idea of what might happen to the \$35 a month pension?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Well the employees . . . the \$158 as opposed to the \$35 was the additional parts to the program we made in '68. The later people are retiring the more they paid in and the more the new system has begun to work. If this new system were to be involved after 30 years of service on \$10,000 . . . now this is after 30 years of teaching where most people retire in other professions a little earlier than that. If their average five year salary was \$10,000, you take 1 1/2 percent of that, if my figures are correct that's \$150 times 30 years, you'd have about \$4500 a year.

SENATOR BARNETT: OK, and is there mandatory retirement age in the bill?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: No.

SENATOR BARNETT: But they go on 30 years of service they can retire after that?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Well they can't retire until they're 65 unless they take an actuarial out at 62. But most of them will have more than 35 years of service probably. The average would probably be 35. That would give them something like \$330 a month.

SENATOR BARNETT: So then you have really . . . what you've done is try to streamline, tried to bring . . . like Senator George said, tried to get the school teachers up capable to the others. I know . . .